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THURSDAYS



"AND THE
BOTTLE
BREAKS."

BOOM!

THAT'S WHAT WE USED TO CALL IT WHEN
ONE OF OUR FRIENDS GAVE UP ON THE
DREAM, HE AND PEARLIE, "THE
BOTTLE-BREAK..."

ALL THOSE
GUYS AND GALS,
HOPEFUL LIKE US,
WHO JUST
COULDN'T TAKE
IT ANYMORE...

...A DREAM DYING.
A BOTTLE TOSSED
AGAINST THE
HOLLYWOOD
SIGN...



...FUNNY, I ALWAYS HAD
A BIT OF A CRUSH ON YOU,
MYSELF, HENRY. DON'T TELL
PEARLE, OBVIOUSLY. SHE'D
KILL ME, BUT IT'S TRUE. I
THOUGHT YOU AND ME,
WE'D MAKE A BETTER
PAIR...



...NOW THAT
SHE'S OUT OF
THE PICTURE, WE
CAN SEE FOR
OURSELVES.



SO LET'S
END THIS DREAM
OF PEARL AND YOU,
LIVING HAPPILY
EVER AFTER,
SHALL WE?



LET'S
TOSS THAT
BOTTLE.



HANG
ON THERE,
POLLY.



YOU HAVE
GOT TO BE
KIDDING.

I'M JUST
SAYING, THIS
ISN'T PART
OF THE
PLAN.



THE PLAN, OLD
MAN, IS ANYTHING I
SAY IT IS. YOU WANT
THAT THING OUT OF
YOUR CHEST? YOU'LL
RETHINK WHAT
YOU'RE DOING
RIGHT NOW.

PUTTING A
DOG OUT OF ITS
MISERY IS ONE THING.
BUT TURNING HIM
INTO ONE OF
THEM...



THERE IS NO "THEM."
THEY ARE MY MINIONS,
SKINNER. THEY DO
WHAT I SAY.

WHAT BETTER
PUNISHMENT FOR
PEARL, THAN HAVING
THE GREAT LOVE OF
HER LIFE TURNED INTO
ONE OF MY SLAVES,
A MONSTER WHO
HATES HER.



THAT
AIN'T HOW
I SEE IT.



AND LOOK AT
THISSS...

...YOU LOVE
HER, TOO, IS
THAT IT?

SHE'S
NOT EVEN
CLOSE.

I JUST DON'T
LIKE THE IDEA OF
MORE OF THEM,
WALKING THE
EARTH.



KEEP TELLING
YOURSELF THAT,
LOVERBOY. NOW
GET OUT OF MY
WAY, YOU WHIPPED
LITTLE DOG!



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**LEONARDO MANCO &
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Cover by

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GRAPHIC NOVEL ON SALE
NOVEMBER 2012

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STEP AWAY
FROM THE
COWBOY.

ALL OF
YOU.



PEARLY? DIDN'T
YOU HEAR, PALT?
YOUR PART WAS
GUT ALREADY.



YEAH,
I WROTE
MYSELF BACK
IN, BITCH.

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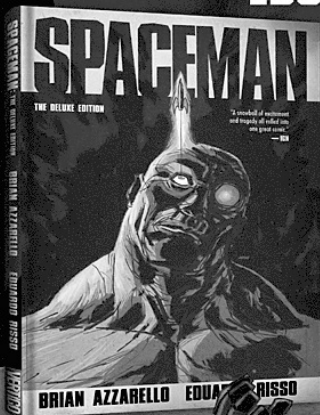
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YOU'RE SO
FUCKING STUPID IT
KILLS ME. BELIEVING
YOU CAN LIVE YOUR
HAPPY LITTLE LIFE
WITH YOUR LOVERBOY,
AND THAT NONE OF
IT WILL CATCH UP
TO YOU?



HEH... WELL, THE SAME WAY
YOU CAUGHT UP TO ME
ON THE SET OF ATLANTIS,
RIGHT WHEN I HAD IT ALL,
I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE
TO TAKE IT AWAY
FROM YOU.



NOT JUST ME,
BUT ALL OF US.
THE ONES YOU HURT.
THE PAST WILL
ALWAYS COME
TO GET YOU.



CASE IN
POINT...

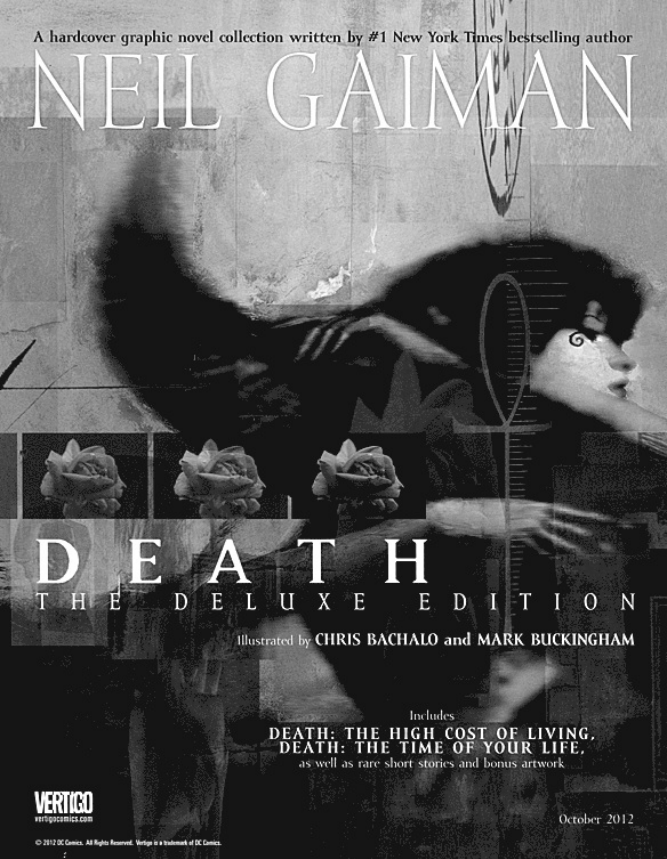


...THE KNIFE
I STABBED YOU WITH,
ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.
GOLD... SEE, PEARLIE?
I THINK AHEAD. AFTER
ALL, WE BOTH KNOW I'VE
ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE
WITH THE BRAINS IN
THIS OUTFIT!



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NEIL GAIMAN



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DEAN ORMSTON, DANIJEL ZEDEL
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NO, NOT
NOW...



HENRY! IS HE
BREATHING?!



I CAN'T
HEAR HIS
HEART!
PLEASE,
HENRY...



PLEASE!
COME BACK
TO ME!

From the pages of **FABLES.**

F A I R E S T

VOLUME #1

Wide Awake

NOV. 2012

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2012



J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI
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MOLOCH



NOVEMBER
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BEFORE WATCHMEN

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TELL ME YOU
WERE GOING TO
AT LEAST SAY
GOODBYE.



I WAS. I
WAS GOING
TO CALL YOU
FROM THE ROAD
TONIGHT. I
JUST...

I'M GLAD
I CAUGHT
YOU. ...

WELL...THE VMS IS
REBUILDING THE LOS
ANGELES BASE. BIXBY,
HE'S A TOUGH BASTARD,
HE'S RECOVERING WELL.



THAT'S
GOOD, I'M
GLAD.

THERE'S
SOMETHING
ELSE THOUGH,
PEARL. IT SEEMS IN
THE CONFUSION,
AFTER THE ATTACK,
SKINNER SWEET
ESCAPED.

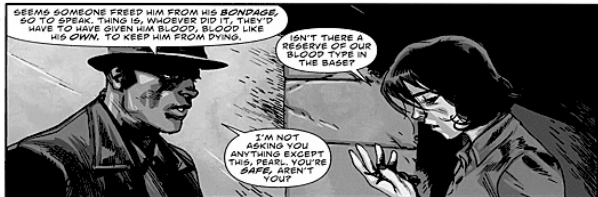
HUM,
IS THAT
SO.



IT IS. VMS NURSE CAME BY TO CHECK ON HIM, AND HE WAS GONE. NO SIGN OF HIM...



...EXCEPT FOR THIS.



SEEMS SOMEONE FREED HIM FROM HIS BONPAGE, SO TO SPEAK. THING IS, WHOEVER DID IT, THEY'D HAVE TO HAVE GIVEN HIM BLOOD, BLOOD LIKE HIS OWN, TO KEEP HIM FROM DYING.

ISN'T THERE A RESERVE OF OUR BLOOD TYPE IN THE BASE?

I'M NOT ASKING YOU ANYTHING EXCEPT THIS, PEARL. YOU'RE SAFE. AREN'T YOU?



FROM SKINNER?

HEH

HE AND I WILL NEVER MEET AGAIN.



YOU KNOW, PEARL, I'D BE A FOOL NOT TO ASK YOU TO STAY WITH US, WITH THE VMS. YOU COULD HELP CONTINUE THE FIGHT. AT LEAST FOR A BIT. IT'D GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THINGS.



THANKS, CAL, BUT I THINK MY MIND'S BEEN OFF THINGS FOR TOO LONG.

MORE THAN UNDERSTOOD.

THERE'S ONE MORE THING, PEARL.



THIS WAS FOUND IN THE WRECKAGE OF THE MEDICAL BAY.

HENRY WROTE IT NOT LONG BEFORE THE ATTACK.



CAN I ASK WHERE TO?



YOU CAN. I WAS THINKING I MIGHT HEAD BACK HOME, WHERE I GREW UP. BUT HONESTLY, CAL, I'M NOT SURE.

MAYBE THAT'S A GOOD THING. I'LL BE WAITING ON THAT GOODBYE CALL, TOO.



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- VOL. 9: M.I.A.
- VOL. 10: COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT
- VOL. 11: FREE STATES RISING
- VOL. 12: THE FIVE NATIONS OF
NEW YORK



THE WAR FOR
NEW YORK CITY IS OVER.
WHO PAID
THE ULTIMATE PRICE?



"PEARL, IF YOU'RE READING THIS, IT MEANS...WELL, I GUESS IT MEANS MY PART OF OUR SONG ENDED LITTLE EARLIER THAN I'D HAVE LIKED.

"AND FOR THAT, HON, FOR BOWING OUT EARLY, I'M SO, SO SORRY.

"BUT WHAT I WANT YOU TO KNOW, PEARL, HERE AND NOW, IS WHAT I'M NOT SORRY FOR. I'M NOT SORRY FOR MAKING THE CHOICE, TOGETHER, NOT TO TURN ME.

For Pearl

"SEE, THE THING IS, I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN YOU WERE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN ME, THAN US, I KNEW IT BEFORE YOU BECAME A VAMPIRE, AND I KNEW IT AFTER. YOU GOT MORE LIFE, MORE FIRE IN YOU THAN A NORMAL BODY'LL HOLD, GIRL.

"ME, THOUGH, I'M DIFFERENT. I HAD A ROUGH TIME OF IT, AS A YOUNG MAN, AND IN MUSIC, IN LIFE, ALL I EVER WANTED WAS SOME KIND OF HOME, OF PEACE.

"AND FOR A LONG TIME, I FOUND THAT WITH YOU. IT'S WHERE I WANT TO STAY NOW, PEARL, HOME, EVEN THOUGH I CAN SEE YOU'RE READY FOR SOMETHING NEW.

"I KNOW YOU WANT THE SOMETHING NEW TO BE WITH ME, BUT I'M SO TIRED, PEARL, TIRED AND GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE TIMES WE'VE HAD TOGETHER. FROM HERE TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD AND BACK. I'M GRATEFUL FOR IT ALL.

"BEST THING I EVER DID WITH MY LIFE HAPPENED ON A MORNING IN 1925, WHEN I ASKED A GIRL TO JOIN ME FOR A CUP OF COFFEE.

"I LOVE YOU, PEARL, NOW AND ALWAYS.

"NOW GO ON. NO MORE LOOKING BACK. ONLY FORWARD. MY PART MIGHT BE OVER, BUT YOUR SONG IS ONLY JUST BEGINNING."

THE BLACKLIST

part six of six

SCOTT SNYDER writer RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE artist
DAVE MCCAIN colors JARED K. FLETCHER letters ALBUQUERQUE cover
GREGORY LOCKARD text editor MARK DOYLE editor
AMERICAN VAMPIRE created by SCOTT SNYDER & RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE

Next:
Coda

SNYDER/ALBUQUERQUE/D. 10
2012

VERTIGO FABLES: WEREWOLVES OF THE

Editor Shelly Bond and creator/writer Bill Willingham chew the fat about the new, highly anticipated FABLES original graphic novel:

Shelly: Is FABLES: WEREWOLVES OF THE HEARTLAND the most gruesome Fables story you've ever written or the most gruesome story you've ever written?

Bill: Hard to say. It certainly seems so.

Shelly: Would it be fair to say this is the continuation of the ultimate untold history of Bigby Wolf, a seed that you cleverly planted long ago, in FABLES #28/29?

Bill: It's the tale I've been wanting to tell for some time that shows, even though Bigby was reformed, he's still a monster, in every cruel sense of the word.

Shelly: And yet it's also a self-contained story, correct?

Bill: Yes.

Shelly: Is there a specific fairy tale or legend that inspired you to write it?

Bill: No. This one spins off a previous Fables story. Something that happened in Bigby's past comes back to haunt him. Unfinished business, you might say.

Shelly: Is Bigby much of a reader? How did he pass the time before he stumbled onto Story City when he was scouting locations for a new Fabletown?

Bill: He wasn't a reader before meeting Snow [White]. She turned him into one, along with the many other transformations, figurative and literal, that she inspired in him.

Shelly: How many werewolves were wounded or killed in this story?

Bill: No comment. Next question.

Shelly: How many werewolves were naked or nude in this story?

Bill: Next question.

Shelly: It's an epic adventure about honor, bloodlines, lust and self-preservation. Does it have heart or a sense of humor?

Bill: Hopefully all of my stories have heart and a bit of humor. The secret of writing horror and tragedy: Use the funny stuff to set up the horror, and use the horror to set up the funny bits.

Shelly: Anyone who's reading the current FABLES storyline is used to former Sheriff Bigby Wolf as the adoring father to seven cubs and husband to Snow White, the love of his life. But this story shows Bigby at his most fierce. Would you say that the Big Bad Wolf is reverting to type for a good reason? Or is he just doing it arbitrarily, because he can, dammit?

Bill: And that's the crux of this story. So my only possible answer has to be: Read it and see.

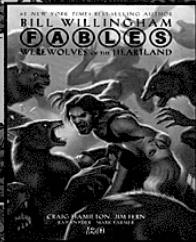
Shelly: Who wins in a fight: Bigby in WEREWOLVES or Godzilla? (The answer cannot be Snow White).

Bill: Bigby, if I write it.



HEARTLAND original graphic novel

"He was always the monster, barely contained."



FABLES: WEREWOLVES OF THE HEARTLAND, in all its savage beauty, is in stores in November.

ON THE

LEDGE

Steig Larsson and I are lifelong feminists. Stop cheering, honestly, there's no need. Yeah, so not quite the reaction from most of you. In fact, most readers won't have made it this far into the column. For a broad readership, feminism isn't a vanilla vote-getter. It's not like being for freedom or against poverty or in favor of animal sanctuaries.

Feminism, in most people's minds, carries with it implications of reproach. Most people don't know what feminism is, but they're pretty sure they're on the wrong side of it. You're not. End of.

Feminism means accepting that gender is a continuum, not a binary. Gender roles don't really look like this:

Proper men ---- void ---- Proper women

They actually look like this:

Machoman - cage fighter - sportsman - normal person - Gender Neutral - normal person - prone to knitting - sighs at flowers - Sobbing Starlet looking for a powerful husband.

Everyone is somewhere along the line from female to male. Plot your position, let other people be who they are, and get on with it. Men are from Mars, but so are women.

The fallout from that premise is that we all have an equal right to legal protection, to work and be independent, to not have our faces kicked in while we're cooking the dinner.

Larsson was a self-declared feminist. If you think being a female feminist leaves you open to ridicule, trying being a guy. That would put him at the "machoman" end of the gender spectrum, although possibly momentarily.

The Millennium Trilogy is a dangerous piece of feminist propaganda wrapped up in a populist narrative. His first novel was called "Men Who Hate Women" in Swedish. Every section of "Men Who Hate Women" has a frontispiece with a startling statistic about sexual violence in Sweden. He has (spoiler alert) a woman save a man who is about to be sexually violated.

But, somehow, that provocative, lay-out-your-stall title was thought not to quite work in English. Not snappy enough. The title became "The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo." The frontispieces were kept in the book but didn't make it into the movies, not cinematic enough. Also, in the movies, Salander seems to live with a makeup artist. As an ex-goth myself I can tell you, it doesn't look like that if you put on your own makeup in a dark flat. It might look okay in the dark flat, but when you go out into daylight it looks as if you'd put your head into the make up bag and shook it. So these comics are an act of love, an attempt to bring it back to the hardcore story Larsson wrote. Steig, pal, a warm hand to your back, wherever you are.

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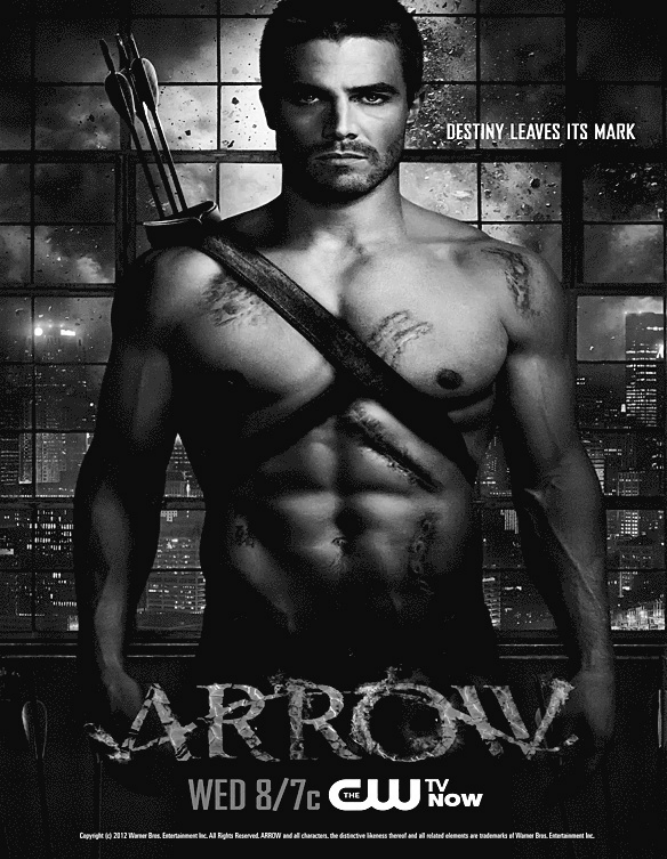
GRAPHIC NOVEL #100 DENISE MINA LEONARDO MANCO ANDREA MUTTI
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DENISE MINA is an author, playwright and screenwriter based out of Glasgow, Scotland. Her novels include *Field of Blood*, *Slip of the Knife*, and *The End of Wasp Season*. She has previously written comics for Vertigo, both *HELLBLAZER: EMPATHY IS THE ENEMY* and *A SICKNESS IN THE FAMILY*.



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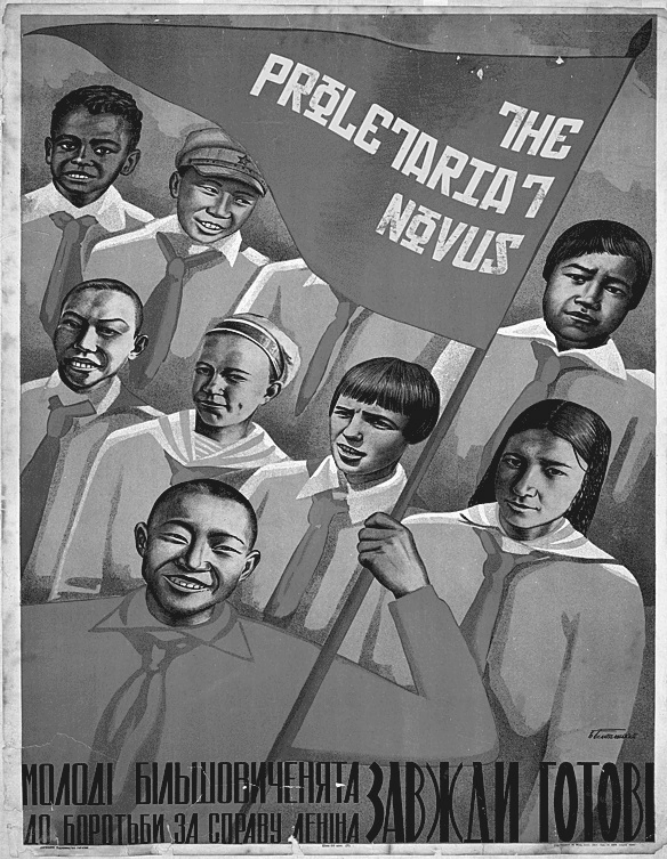


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THE
PROLETARIAT
NOVUS

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ДО БОРЬБИ ЗА СПРАВУ ЛЕНИНА